

Winter 12-3-1999

## Volume 35 - Issue 10 - Friday, December 3, 1999

Rose Thorn Staff

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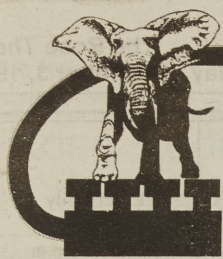
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# THORN

Volume 35, Issue 10

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Terre Haute, Indiana

Friday, December 3, 1999

## Give the gift of life this holiday season and get \$10 off at Applebees

As the holiday season approaches, the blood supply in central Indiana begins to dwindle.

This is a busy time for everyone else except the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center (CIRBC).

The *Gift of Life* blood drive, hosted by WTHR-TV 13 and CIRBC, is a special two-day blood donor appeal encouraging the community to donate on Friday, Dec. 3 or Saturday, Dec. 4, at any blood center location in Indianapolis, Anderson, Lafayette, Columbus or Terre Haute.

All locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. This year, all donors will receive a \$10 off meal certificate compliments of Applebee's Restaurant.

The closer the holidays approach, the less likely people will have time to donate. There are other factors that contribute to the decline in the blood supply during this time of year.

Blood drives are not scheduled at high schools or colleges when students are on break. Many businesses avoid scheduling blood drives close to the holidays.

The few blood drives that are scheduled are not as productive because many people are taking time off work.

Unfortunately, hundreds of people throughout central Indiana will not be celebrating the holidays with family and friends.

Many will spend the holidays in central Indiana, recovering from illness, trauma or surgery.

The need for blood is constant. Please take an hour of your time to donate blood this holiday season.

Eligible donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. For more information call (317) 916-5150 or 1-800-63CIRBC.

## Construction of observatory begins Facility to contain computer-operated telescopes

Alison Bailey  
Staff Writer

Construction began on the new Oakley Observatory. The Groundbreaking ceremony for the facility was held Tuesday, November 9th.

The new facility is slated to be finished in May 2000 with Astronomy classes utilizing the new facility next fall. The observatory is being constructed east of the academic buildings and intramural fields.

The new building will have three telescopes, each on their own pier to minimize movement due to people walking in the building. The building will be elevated from the ground so that fewer trees will need to be removed.

The Observatory will also have



**Digging In** - The Groundbreaking ceremony was a well-attended event. Ann Perry of the Oakley Foundation and her family were in attendance. From left to right, Samuel Hulbert, Jeff Perry, Steve Heck, Julie Perry Heck, Ann Perry, Bud Perry, Richard Ditteon, Berry Benedict.

photo provided by Richard Ditteon

a sliding roof. Each telescope is computer controlled and will eventually be put online for remote access.

Money for the new observatory

came from a grant from the Oakley Foundation, in addition to funding set aside for moving the old observatory from its now illuminated site.

The Astronomy Club is still meeting at the old observatory by the new residence hall parking lot, Thursday nights at 7:30.

## The grinch who stole the Union tree

Craig Pohlman  
Editor-in-Chief

At approximately 12:45 a.m. Thursday, several individuals removed the holiday tree decorated in the Hulman Memorial Union lobby. Apparently, a trail of tree ornaments were found leading from Deming Hall and over near the Bigfoot convenience store after the tree was discovered missing that morning.

Pete Gustafson, assistant vice president of student affairs, sent a mass voicemail message to on-campus residents denouncing the removal of the tree from the Union. Later Thursday, Rose-Hulman president Dr. Samuel Hulbert sent an e-mail to all students, staff, and faculty requesting that those responsible for the theft to return the tree back to the Union immediately.

Luckily, for nearly 150 children visiting in the Union this Saturday, the tree is now back in the Union, but it is currently naked.

According to Gustafson, it was discovered that the individ-

uals responsible were Rose-Hulman students. The students, whose names were not available before press time, are to replace the missing and broken tree ornamentation.



Craig Pohlman  
**The missing holiday tree returned naked early Friday.**

## 'Battle of bands' plans to rock Moench Hall

Walt Flood  
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman Student Activities Board has planned yet another fun and exciting event. Next Friday, December 10th, SAB will host the annual Battle of the Bands. The event will be held at 7 p.m. in the Moench Auditorium.

Last month, student bands were asked to bring demo tapes into the SAB office.

All music types were encouraged, but the selected final acts are classified as either punk, alternative, or rock.

SAB then placed qualifying bands having at least one Rose student through a comprehensive screening process including a live performance and a practice sound check.

Six bands have survived the screening process and tough judging of SAB.

Citizen's Arrest, The Capricious Dogmatics, DESH, HYTE661, Niner, and WDK (We

Don't Know) will all compete on Friday for \$300 in total prize money. The winner will walk away with \$200 in their pockets, and the runner up receives the remaining \$100.

The main organizer of this year's event, Ken Patricio, says, "This year, Battle of the Bands is going out to the ladies." So come on out ladies (and guys as well) for a good time and help SAB hand-out money.

Upon arrival at the show, each attendee will be given a numbered ballot with all of the bands listed.

At the end of the last set, SAB will collect the ballots to decide the winners.

While the votes are tallied, a bonus non-Rose band will keep the audience entertained.

The bands are scheduled to play 15 to 20 minute sets apiece, so the rockin' is sure to last well into the night.

Everyone come on out and witness this year's Battle of the Bands. If band names are any indication, this year's show will

125 Years



Rose-Hulman  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Computer science students excel in programming contest

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### Opinions

What good would the legalization of drugs be?

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### Sports

Basketball starts off promising

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### Tonight!

Women's BB - 6 p.m.  
Men's BB - 8 p.m.

SRC - Hulbert Arena



# CAMPUS CALENDAR

						December 3	4
						Men's and Women's Basketball vs. Oglethorpe SRC 6:00 p.m.  Concert Union 7:30 p.m.	RoseFamily Christmas Party Union 3:30 p.m.  IU Baroque Orchestra Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Men's Basketball vs. Millsaps  SRC Noon  Women's Basketball SRC 2:00 p.m.	Computer Science Majors Open Forum  E-104 4:20 p.m.	Army ROTC Christmas Party  Auditorium 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Computer Science Majors Open Forum  E-104 4:20 p.m.	Women's Basketball vs. MacMurray  SRC 8:00 p.m.	SAB Battle of the Bands  Auditorium 8:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball vs. Indiana Univ. East  SRC 3:00 p.m.	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
				Hulman Union Holiday Celebration Kahn Rooms 11:00 a.m.  Women's Basketball vs. St. Mary's SRC 7:30 p.m.	<b>Holiday Break Begins</b>  <b>After Last Class</b>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Holiday Break - No Classes							

## GRADUATE STUDY AT DARTMOUTH

Computers & Communications  
Electromagnetics, Photonics, Circuits  
Materials Science  
Mechanics, Dynamics & Controls  
Fluid & Thermal Engineering  
Chemical & Biochemical Engineering  
Biomedical Engineering  
Environmental Science & Engineering  
Engineering Management

### DEGREES

#### M.E.M. (Master of Engineering Management)

- Engineering management/practice, industrial application, interdisciplinary study
- Courses, project, internship
- 1-year post B.S. program
- Financial aid available

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- Courses, thesis, seminar
- Fellowships, Research Assistantships

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Engineering

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## Millenium Memories

### 1999 Downtown Christmas Walk & Scavenger Hunt

#### Today Friday, December 3

Downtown Terre Haute 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- The Grand Opening of the Swope Art Museum \$1.2 Million renovation.
- The Holiday Open House at Historic Landmarks Foundation.
- Wabash Valley Roadrunners annual Jingle Bell Run through Downtown.
- The Diversity Essay Contest Awards at BookNation.
- The annual Scavenger Hunt, this year featuring a "reverse" twist.
- Carriage rides, carolers, community Christmas tree.
- Christmas' round the Tree at the Vigo County Public Library

Food, fun, shopping and holiday cheer.  
**The Municipal Parking Garage will offer free parking from 5:00 p.m.**

### SUBMISSIONS

Events may be published in *Events* by any organization or individual. Information on club meetings, lectures, speeches, and athletic events, including announcements of times and locations may be submitted to *Campus Calendar*, in care of Dale Long, associate director of communications, at Box 14 or extension 8418. More detailed articles containing plans, agendas, and specific information should be submitted to the *Rose Thorn*.

All submissions must be made by Wednesday at noon in order to be published in *Events* in the *Rose Thorn* on Friday.



## Rose students earn berth into world finals of international programming contest

Matthew Walter  
Editorial Staff

Rose students tend to thrive on competition. Usually the competition come in the form of trying to get the best grade in a class. Last quarter, a group of computer science competed in the Association of Computing Machinery's International Collegiate Programming Contest and earned a berth to the world finals. The contest is sponsored by IBM.

The team, consisting of Nick Robarge, Mike Van Vertloo, and Pete Webb placed first out of nine teams at the test site they were at. Their score was high enough to place third (of 112 teams) in their

region.

The region consists of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and parts of Indiana. University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Harding University (Searcy, AR) placed first and second, respectively, in the region.

Six questions of varying difficulty (two easy, two medium, two difficult) were presented to each of the teams.

Each team had five hours to complete all of the problems. Arkansas correctly answered all of the problems, while Rose and Harding were able to figure out five of the problems. Harding placed higher based on time scor-

ing.

The world finals will take place in Orlando, Florida from March 15-19. Dr. Andrew Kinley, the ACM advisor at Rose, said that he did not how well the team will place, since this is the first time that a Rose team has made it to the world finals. He added, though, that teams from this region have fared well in the past.

Another team from Rose competed, but did not place high enough to qualify for the world finals. Members of this team were Craig Pohlman, Steve Brewer, and Matt Longest.

Additional information can be found on the ACM webpage at [www.acm.org/contest](http://www.acm.org/contest).

## Campus Briefs

### Sophomore grades not good

Fall quarter grades for sophomores were "not as good" as those of freshmen, according to Jess Lucas, Dean of Students. Many sophomores will be meeting or have met already with the Admissions and Standing Committee to seek readmission.

### CIE update

James Eifert, new head of the Center for an Innovation Economy (CIE), recently met with Indiana University officials to discuss future projects with them. Eifert is continually seeking input from faculty and staff for suggestions about community or business groups that would be interested in speaking with him about the CIE.

### Students receive honor at conference

Rose-Hulman student delegates to the National Association of Campus Activities conference were chosen as the most outstanding delegation

there. Seven students gave presentations at the event.

### Fine Arts Concert to feature Baroque Orchestra

The next Fine Arts Series concert, on Saturday, Dec. 4th at 7:30, will feature the Baroque Orchestra, a new ensemble from the Indiana University School of Music. Internationally recognized violinist Stanley Ritchie conducts the group.

### Strategic planning update

The final proposal regarding the mission, vision and guiding principles of Rose-Hulman will be approved at a meeting on Dec. 7th. Faculty and staff have been encouraged to respond to an email sent by planning leader Thad Smith regarding the wording of the statement. In addition, three faculty members have been appointed as planning team leaders: Patsy Brackin, chairing the student outcomes assessment team; Charles Joenathan, coaching the resource management and development team; Kevin Sutterer, leading a team involved with student retention and recruitment.

The Alpha Epsilon Pledge Class  
of Pi Kappa Alpha  
wishes the Rose-Hulman  
Women's basketball team  
a great season.

GO ROSE!

## FUNDRAISER

### Pizza Hut Discounts

Friday Dec. 3rd - Dec. 10th

Union Lobby 4th-6th hour


<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/Users/groups/NSBE/Public/HTML/pizzainfo.htm>

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## For fans of 007, "World" is definitely good "Enough"

Don Cole  
Staff Writer**The World is Not Enough**Pierce Brosnan  
Denise Richards  
MPAA: rated PG-13  
for intense sequences of  
action violence, some  
sexuality and innuendo  
running time: 128 minutes  
\*\*\* 1/2

**Opening Notes:** I had high expectations for *The World Is Not Enough*, the 19th movie in the James Bond franchise, because of 1997's awesome *Tomorrow Never Dies*. The series has improved remarkably since they finally cast-off Roger Moore in 1985, and *The World Is Not Enough* continues that trend. The action scenes are great, the story is involving and Pierce Brosnan is in top form as the storied secret agent.

**The Plot:** A terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters in London blows out a chunk of the building and kills oil baron Sir Robert King (David Calder), friend to M, head of MI6. Bond attempts to capture the assassin, who ends up killing herself and leaving Bond injured. After "convincing" the lady doctor to give him a clean bill of health, Bond is assigned to protect King's daughter, Elektra (Sophie Marceau). M believes that she will be next target of Renard (Robert Carlyle), a terrorist who feels no pain because of a gunshot wound to the head.

The plot begins to twist after this. Bond discovers Renard stealing a nuclear bomb from a missile silo, where he learns that maybe King isn't the target, but the accomplice. Not much more can be explained without giving the whole movie away, but the story plunges into a tale of greed and revenge not on Bond, but on M herself.

**The Cast:** Brosnan reprises the role of Bond for the third time, and, in many eyes, is second only to the great Sean Connery, though in my opinion all the actors who have played Bond have done very well with the role (except for Roger Moore). Dame Judi Dench, recent Oscar winner for her role in *Shakespeare In Love*, returns to play the MI6 head M, while Samantha Bond returns as her secretary, Moneypenny. Desmond Llewellyn, who has played Q since 1963's *From Russia With*

*Love*, sadly makes his final appearance as the Bond's gadget man; he is replaced by John Cleese, of Monty Python fame, whom Bond sarcastically asks, "If he's Q, does that make you R?"

Robert Carlyle (*Train-spotting*, *The Full Monty*) plays Bond's chief nemesis, Renard, a former KGB man turned anarchist, recently shot by a British agent in the head, which causes him to feel no pain. This also means that he has not long to live: As per usual, there is plenty of eye candy in the persons of Sophie Marceau (*Braveheart*), playing Elektra, and Denise Richards (*Starship Troopers*, *Wild Things*) playing Christmas Jones, a Ph.D. physicist and nuclear expert. Robbie Coltrane returns as former KGB agent Valentin Zukovsky, a role he first played in 1995's *Goldeneye*.

**The Good:** Almost everything. The plot is very absorbing, though the writing was not always the best. But hey, this movie is not going to win an Oscar anytime soon. Another thing I enjoyed was the fact that they actually got some science right: putting weapons-grade plutonium in a nuclear reactor would cause an explosion (watch the movie to see what I'm talking about). Although I was saddened a bit to see Llewellyn go, it appears as though John Cleese will fill his shoes nicely.

M finally gets a more important role, as she is eventually kidnapped and must find some way to signal to Bond where she is. It is clear to see how she won the Oscar; she shows guilt over King's death, sending out agents almost on a mission of revenge, and later displays ingenuity in signaling where she is being held. The rest of the cast (sans Richards) gives great performances, especially Marceau. All the other elements of the typical Bond movie, as noted by Roger Ebert, are here: chases, gambling, beautiful women, a megalomaniacal villain, and a gripping final fight scene.

**The Bad:** Denise Richards. Why? Obviously she is very attractive, but other than that, she brings absolutely nothing to the movie. I very much doubt many Ph.D. physicists are that attractive and wear that little clothing, especially around an abandoned mis-



photo from movieweb.com

**007 is back:** James Bond (Pierce Brosnan) squares off against the evil Renard (Robert Carlyle), a terrorist who feels no pain after having been shot in the head.

sile silo. Her character never seems to go anywhere and ends up doing very little except providing Bond with a clever line at the end of the movie. The part could have been used (and cast) much better.

Another complaint I had was with the development, or lack thereof, of Renard's character. He appears with Bond only twice and only a few more times on screen at all. It would have made the movie much more interesting to delve into this character and exploit the fact that he can feel no pain. For instance, when he dies, it would have been great to see a small smile on his face rather than the blank look Carlyle gives in the movie. This is not to detract from Carlyle's performance; he does very well with what he was written.

**The Ugly:** At one point towards the end, there are two fairly ugly scenes that I did not particularly like. One was the ancient torture device that Bond is eventually tied up to; it straps the victim in and then a wheel is used to extend a rod into the back of the victim's neck, extending slowly until he dies. The other ugly thing that I noticed was Elektra's half-bitten-ear that she reveals to Bond; I won't say how she got it, as this would ruin some of the movie.

**The Bottom Line:** The 19th edition of the lucrative James

Bond series is great. Although not as good as *Tomorrow Never Dies* or such classics as *Goldfinger*, this certainly ranks as one of the best.

On a scale of zero to 4 (with 4

being classic and zero being 1979's *Moonraker*, THE WORST Bond movie EVER), I give *The World is Not Enough* a 3.5.



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We would like to remind our readers that the views expressed in the Thorn do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone other than the original author.

Web Page: <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn>



## Grammy Award winning artist to perform tonight

Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Barbara Bailey Hutchison will bring her finely crafted songs and clever wit to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology tonight at 7:30 PM in the Kahn Room of the Student Union for a special Holiday Concert. Her voice is familiar to millions of television and radio listeners across the country. The hundreds of commercials she has sung for McDonald's, Hallmark Cards, and other national advertisers attest to her vocal repertoire.

Believing "pigeon holes are for the birds," she defies categorization. Some draw comparisons to Shawn Colvin, or Jewel, while others hear a likeness to Joni Mitchell or Mary Chapin Carpenter. Her show is fresh and energetic, offering music and stories that

serve to inspire and amuse. Her music speaks to issues of tolerance and human rights, as well as personal relationships.

In addition to receiving the music industry's highest recognition, a Grammy Award, Hutchison has been voted "Best Solo Performer" and "Best Acoustic Performer" by a national magazine poll of colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada.

Dakota Records, the independent record label responsible for eight of the singer's thirteen albums, was started by Hutchison, because she "... just didn't fit the major label mold," and she wanted to maintain more control over the content and production of her music. Singer/songwriter Gene Cotton produced her latest CD "Reconcile." This is

their second collaborative effort, a follow-up to Barbara's critically acclaimed "Christmas" CD.

Hutchison says she's comfortable with her career, happy to be writing meaningful songs, and to be able to present them to intelligent and attentive listeners. She loves nothing better than sharing her songs, telling their stories, and joking with her audience. Should her music receive the radio exposure it deserves, the rest of the world will learn what her fans already know: Barbara and her music are full of grace, humor, hopefulness, and, most of all, deep humanity.

Barbara will be available immediately following the performance to talk with her audience and sign CDs. For more information, call (812) 877-8346.



## Rose students road trip to Delaware Pumpkin Tossing Championship

Alex Song  
Staff Writer

Fourteen years ago, a blacksmith in Sussex County, Delaware held a contest to see who could throw an anvil the farthest. Through the years, surplus Halloween pumpkins were eventually substituted for the anvils, and the competition soon gained enormous popularity among the locals. "Punkin' Chunk" has since grown into a massive two-day event attended by over 18,000 people, complete with food vendors and live bands.

It was a little over a year ago in the middle of senior design class, when my friend Dave King first told me about this bizarre competition. He gave me the details and it wasn't long before we both decided that a road trip was necessary. Last month we finally made it out to the small coastal town of Lewes, Delaware to witness what many people call the "Super Bowl of Pumpkin Tossing."

When we drove up to the huge back-country field, we were immediately overwhelmed by dozens of machines lobbing, flinging, hurling, and shooting pumpkins in giant arcs across the sky. Throwing machines of all types were powered by enormous falling weights, garage door springs, giant elastic bands, farm tractors, and even a Toyota truck rigged up to some pulleys.

Dave and I were particularly impressed by one machine consisting of a 40-foot rotating arm powered by a 600 horsepower diesel engine. From over 2000 feet away, we could hear the distinctive "swish swish swish" of the arm slicing through the air as it accelerated. When it reached the obscene speed of 300 rpm, a release mechanism unleashed the pumpkin at the precise moment, hurling it a quarter mile downrange.

However, the stars of the show were clearly the compressed air cannons, capable of throwing pumpkins to distances just short of a mile. Unfortunately, for safety reasons, the public was kept behind a fence several hundred feet away from the action, allowed only a wide-angle view of the distant cannons and the impact field.

Making my way to the event organizer's tent, I tried to obtain a pit-crew pass for access to the off limits areas. When that attempt failed, I went to a different person and somehow managed to acquire a press pass. For the rest of that day, wearing the pass and carrying my \$12.00 disposable Wal-Mart camera, I walked freely around the pit areas amongst television news

crews and the cannon teams themselves.

Weaving my way through the pit area, I eventually came to the famous "Aludium Q-36 Pumpkin Modulator," an enormous cannon constructed in 1996 by a team from Morton, Illinois. I spent the good part of an afternoon chatting with three of the team engineers about their giant homemade artillery piece.

Explaining how the cannon

got its name, team member Steve Young pointed to the Marvin the Martian stuffed animal sitting on the tip of the cannon barrel and commented, "We used to watch Looney Tunes every day in college."

He told me how the Aludium Q-36 barrel was constructed out of ten-inch diameter PVC pipe, "painted black to look more badass." An extensive truss structure surrounded the 80-foot barrel to keep it from sagging under its own weight. "We didn't really use a lot of our engineering educations," explained Young, jokingly. "We just made the gun as big as we could and hoped it would work."

That strategy proved good enough to win the 1998 Lewes competition with a toss of 4026 feet. Later that same year they earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records with an incredible 4491-foot shot. The publicity eventually attracted the notice of David Letterman, who invited them to fire the Aludium Q-36 for a segment on his show.

According to team engineer Pat Parker, Letterman wanted to hit New Jersey from Riverside Park in Manhattan; - over a half mile across the Hudson River. "Those guys are all city people, and they had no idea what our cannon was capable of," Parker said. "They were amazed when we shot a pumpkin over their camera barge with ease."

Despite the free publicity, the team was a little disappointed. "We could have easily hit New Jersey, but they just had us shoot into the river because there was a big hotel on the other side," Young told me, adding, "We didn't even get to meet Letterman, although

we did get to see his lesser known stagehand, Frank."

Still, the group has no regrets for having done the Letterman show. It was however, an extremely tight schedule. The team had to drive straight to Delaware right after the taping of the show on November 4th, in order to be able to participate in Punkin' Chunk that weekend.

Competing as a compressed-air cannon, the Aludium Q-36 had to abide by the four rules of "Unlimited Class" competition: 1) the pumpkin must weigh between eight and ten pounds, 2) explosives are not allowed, 3) the pumpkin must be launched intact, and 4) no part of the machine may cross the start line.

The general Q-36 firing procedure involved shaving surface irregularities off of the pumpkin, which was then loaded into the breech of the cannon. The five-foot diameter, 2000-gallon capacity tank behind the barrel was then charged with pressurized air, and a foghorn signaled when the cannon was ready to fire.

Half stunned by the machine's peculiar "fssshoooooeeeeeee" firing sound, I was further surprised to see that the massive contraption actually recoiled. From my vantage point twenty feet behind the cannon, I could briefly see the blur of a pumpkin speeding out of the barrel. After about ten seconds, I noticed a puff of dirt off in the distance where it smashed into the ground with tremendous force.

A small sport utility vehicle raced out to the impact area after the shot to measure the official distance. Team member Max Teasdale explained that the laser

surveying equipment used was accurate to within fractions of a foot. When I asked him what the Aludium's muzzle velocity was, his conservative estimate was 550 mph. Put into perspective, that's a projectile as heavy as a bowling ball moving at the speed of a .45 caliber pistol bullet.

I was surprised to learn that no firearms permit or license is needed to shoot or own one of these machines, but Teasdale assured me that "a compressed-air cannon is essentially a pellet gun." I guess the only difference is that while my pellet gun can penetrate a tin can, his "pellet gun" could probably send a 10-pound pumpkin straight through a brick wall.

Indeed, five hundred feet from the firing line sat a bright yellow Volkswagen van on a small trailer. For the competition's finale, the Q-36 team fired almost a hundred shots at the van, exhausting every pumpkin left in the pit area. According to Young, "The pumpkins were just going to get thrown out if we didn't use them."

Most of the shots missed, but those that actually hit the van shook it violently, moved it crooked on the trailer, and tore gaping holes through its sheet metal like it was tinfoil. "The van was pretty mangled, and the front end looked like it had been run into a wall," explained Young. Some of the shots that missed the van accidentally hit the trailer, destroying that vehicle as well.

At least one person was not amused by the show. According to Young, the owner of the van and trailer "seemed pretty upset" with the damage done to both. Underestimating the power of the pumpkin cannons, "he originally

thought he could just wash off the van and use it for spare parts." Unfortunately, German engineering just didn't stand a chance against the Midwest country-boy homemade artillery.

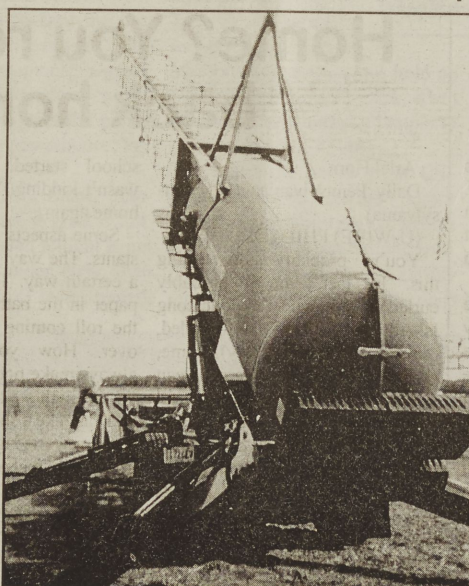
Despite the impressive show, the team assured me that compressed-air cannon performance was lacking this year. "We had an early frost resulting in a crop of mushy pumpkins." Apparently, that mushiness was the factor limiting how far the air-pressure could be cranked up in competition.

Still, the Aludium Q-36 managed to get second place overall with a not-too-shabby launch of 3540 feet. Although the team still holds both the "Punkin' Chunk" title and the world record, I caught them discussing the possibility of adding more length to the barrel for next year's competition.

Dave and I walked back to the car, half seriously tossing around the idea of building our own entry for some future "Punkin' Chunk" competition.

As we started our 700-mile drive back to Indiana, we pretty much decided that if we ever managed to pay our way out of our school loan debts, we're just going to have to use our Rose educations to build the biggest, baddest pumpkin tossing machine that this world has ever seen.

"Punkin' Chunk" is held annually the first weekend of November in Lewes, Delaware. More information can be found on its official website: [www.punkin-chunkin.com/](http://www.punkin-chunkin.com/)



photos by Alex Song  
Above: Centrifugal Machine powered by 600 hp engine  
Left: World Record Holder Aludium Q-36 Pumpkin Modulator.



# Legalize it? What good would it do?

Nat Bowe  
Staff Writer

As I glance across the purple mountains' majesty of the lovely U.S. I see a problem which has long been the topic of discussion. Low and behold the mighty drug problem in the United States. Mighty like the fierce crystal meth that so excites addicted drug users.

What is there to do then? It is much ado about nothing. (Wait maybe Shakespeare was on...no that was Poe.) America is constantly struggling (or smuggling, whichever suits your fancy) with the use and sale of illegal drugs.

Here's the solution: legalize everything, hand out crack to Kindergarten, heroin to high school-

ers and leave a candy bowl full of "reds" in every break room across the nation. Sound good? If you said yes, well, I worry for you. If you said no, yeah conservatism.

You can justify the legalization of the intoxicating substances by saying it is the whole "forbidden fruit" idea. But come on, of all the people out there that use drugs, how many do you actually think do it because their mom says it's wrong or the law forbids it?

By saying that you forbid something you encourage the use of, you are using a boring old cop-out that was first used in the days of old. True, some people will use something because subconsciously they want to defy the rules of society and be the proverbial

Rebel without a cause. What we must realize is that only a small percentage of people use drugs because they are forbidden.

Most people that use illegal substances use them to pick themselves up or to bring themselves down. Instead of looking for constructive ways to handle anger or to have a good time, drug-users take the easy route and use an herbal or synthetic substance to change their attitude or demeanor. When Bob takes a hefty hit off the old red glass bong, I don't think he is actually thinking, "I am doing this because I know my mom hates it." Ol' Bob is probably thinking, "Man this stuff is good, now where is the peanut butter and jelly?"

Now I can't actually testify to

the effects of drugs for the pure and simple fact that I have never used them. I am sure they can make you feel different and quite possibly better than not using them, but frankly I can think of better ways to spend my time and money.

Well after all this rambling and nonsense, you are probably wondering, "Okay when is this idiotic person going to make his point?" Here it is: you can't expect drug use to decline simply by making it legal. People will use drugs whether they are legal or illegal. To someone who really wants the high, it doesn't matter what it takes to get the stuff.

Drugs will be used less only when people wake up one morning

and realize that what they are doing to their bodies is destructive. Making laws allowing drugs only offers the opportunity of immediate gratification to more people. No matter what laws are made, people will only support the laws if they agree with them.

If they don't agree with them, they will get around them and do what they want anyway. A democratic government like ours must be completely supported by the people. Right now some of America is calling for the legalization of "soft" drugs, and some of America is staunchly opposed to the legalization of any drugs.

## Pick your battles

Independent Florida Alligator (U. Florida)  
(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. --

A good example of good old-fashioned democratic free speech was shown in Seattle on Monday - emphasis on old fashioned. On the eve of the World Trade Organization's meeting, which will be the largest trade gathering ever held in the United States with some 135 countries represented, thousands of protesters were greeted with clouds of tear gas and red pepper spray, courtesy of local police.

The result was a scene out of a disaster movie. Riot conditions paralyzed Seattle's main commercial district. Hundreds of police officers in full riot gear confronted protesters who sat down or locked arms in normally busy intersections in an effort to disrupt the trade meetings.

The police justified their actions by saying the protestors were breaking the law by blocking the intersections during morning rush hour.

The protestors were not just out there for their own health. They were there because they feel that, though the meetings may be good for the advancement of free trade, it attempts to achieve it by compromising ecological conditions and the rights of workers.

Stopping traffic in a major metropolitan city draws media atten-

tion to your cause, but also causes more problems than it is worth. There is a fine line between peaceful marching and violent confrontation, a line that seems to have been pushed in Seattle.

Of course, the methods of the police must come under scrutiny as well. Aggressively stopping a protest in which people have chained themselves together and lain across the streets is not the way to go either.

The reactionary methods used by both groups are questionable and neither can be fully condoned. Civil disobedience is admirable, but decidedly uncivil disobedience is not. Breaking up a disorderly crowd through arrests is fine, but trying to beat and gas them into submission while doing it is not.

But the efforts of the protestors were not in vain. They hoped they would get the attention of President Clinton and apparently they have. He says he has heard the cries of the protestors and is sympathetic to their plight.

Clinton, who will address the 135-nation trade body on Wednesday, has embraced some of the concerns of unions and environmentalists in the past few months.

So perhaps the protests were not in vain. But some of the methods used were not appropriate to the protestors' goal of peacefully effecting change.

## Home? You really can't go back home again

Ariel Horn  
Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Pennsylvania)  
(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA --

You're probably not reading this. In fact, you're probably curled up somewhere in your Long Island (let's be open-minded, maybe it's New Jersey) home, cuddling up in your warm, clean sheets. At around noon, you'll stumble out of bed, still bleary-eyed from the one night's sleep, which was supposed to make up for a semester's worth of sleepless nights. You'll stumble into the kitchen and open your refrigerator. And then, it will truly feel like home. The one thing that can distinguish home from college -- a refrigerator that doesn't smell like the slowly decaying body of road-kill. Home, sweet home.

Or maybe you're on your way home, to the sweet promise of clean sheets, food that hasn't yet spoiled and rentless lodging. On Thanksgiving, we all change from students returning home from college to soldiers trudging home from war: battered, tired, worn.

Like the American Red Cross, home is the one place that can give food to the hungry, revive the weary and calm those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. But just as soldiers return from war to find home slightly altered from the way they left it, so too do college students find home different from the way it was before

school started. Thomas Wolfe wasn't kidding. You just can't go home again.

Some aspects of home are constants. The way your room smells a certain way. The way the toilet paper in the bathroom always has the roll coming under instead of over. How your mother will always make pot roast at least one of the nights you're home. How you can take a shower without flip-flops or worrying about who else's grimey feet have been in the shower before you. How your relatives will always ask you how you're going to make a living with THAT major. How you don't have to worry about not having clean underwear for the next day because there is ALWAYS clean underwear when you're home.

While the list of constants goes on and on, there are other aspects of home that you had always thought would be the same, but ended up changing irrevocably. At college, we assume that our high school friendships will freeze in time and that at the moment of reunion our relationships will remain unchanged. But the sad part about coming home is realizing that the friends you associated with home seem more like a distant Motel 6, a casual one-night stopover.

Superficially, it's easy to accept the physical changes in our friends and to enjoy gossiping about them. "So-and-so never had a nose ring

before!" or "Wow, she's lost a TON of weight" or "When did she become a lesbian?"

But upon returning home, we also realize that there are worlds we know that our high-school friends have never known, people we want to gossip about whom they've never heard of and memories to be recounted in which they had no part. There is a nebulous, fuzzy space that forms somewhere between the moment you part with your high school friends and the time you return home. Somehow, these friendships that you thought time and distance could never change have been changed by these very factors. And somehow, before we can really notice it, Penn has become more of a home to us than our hometowns.

The gray area, in which home is neither completely where we grew up nor completely Penn, is disorienting and unsettling. We are groundless, floating precariously above two worlds, not quite sure which world we really belong in. But it is also empowering and exciting. Maybe it's not so bad when we can't go home again. If it doesn't hurt us, it will only make us stronger. If nothing else, it will allow us to embrace our independence, and the years of our lives when nothing ties us down.

People say that the hardest thing about going to college is going away and being on your own. But even harder is coming back.

## Classified Advertisements

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Campus & Community Luncheon Series** Wed., October 27, 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. This semester's topic is "Faith in Collegiate Environment." On Oct. 27 the topic will be "A Counseling Perspective" presented by Dr. Carol Hagans, Director, Student Counseling Center, ISU. Bring a brown bag lunch and join in lively discussion after the presentation. United ministries Center, 32 N 7th St., 232-0186

**Economic Workshop for Clergy, Faculty & Friends**, Part II, Thursday, October 28, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm., United

Ministries Center, 321 N 7th Street. Topic: "Election 99: The Basic Issues" discussed by Dr. Robert Guell, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Economics, ISU; and Dr. Linda Maule, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Political Science, ISU, moderated by Dr. John Conant, Director, Center for Economic Education. Lunch provided at no cost. call 232-0186 to make reservations by October 25

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Submissions may be made at the Thorn office, through campus mail addressed to the Thorn, by email-ing [thorn@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn@rose-hulman.edu), or by calling the Thorn office at extension 8255. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to publication. Runs over one week must be renewed weekly by contacting the Thorn office, unless prior run arrangements have been made.



## Engineers men's basketball off to a promising 2-1 start

Don Cole  
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman men's basketball team tipped off their season two weeks ago in Chicago, showing some of the potential that the team will need to repeat last year's SCAC championship performance.

This weekend opens up conference play for the Engineers, as they take on Oglethorpe College tonight at 8, and Millsaps Sunday at noon. Rose will face old ICAC foe Anderson next week as well.

The Engineers' season opener took place in Chicago at the Midway Classic hosted by the University of Chicago. Rose's first opponent in the tournament was Illinois Institute of Technology, whom they beat with a dramatic scoring run in the closing minutes of the game, 66-56.

Illinois Tech jumped out to the early lead, and the first half witnessed a seesaw battle between the two, punctuated by short scoring runs, until the Scarlet Hawks sealed a first half lead on a 12-2 run, 32-29.

Rose came close but could not quite catch their adversaries

throughout the first ten minutes of the second half, until Michael Harris sank a layup with four minutes to play that gave Rose their first lead in a while, 56-54.

The Engineers then proceeded on a 10-0 run during the final three minutes to seal the victory, with Patrick Grace nailing five of six free throws. Grace led all scorers in the contest with 18 points, a career high, to go with an assist and two steals.

Michael and Ryan Harris also experienced career games. Michael tallied 17 points, a career high, led the team with six rebounds and added a couple of steals. Ryan tied his career high with 16 points and pulled down three rebounds, all in twenty minutes of playing time.

Rose went on to face the host school, the University of Chicago, in the championship game, and were unable to muster enough of a comeback to beat the perennial Division III powerhouse, losing 56-49.

Head coach Jim Shaw commented, "We gave a great effort. The team we played tonight is not going to shoot under 40% often this year. I'm really disappointed,

because we really wanted this one."

Rose hung close in the first half, taking the lead early on a 6-2 before the Maroons answered with a 9-1 run to take their first lead of the game. The Engineers briefly recaptured the lead with just under seven minutes to go in the first, but Chicago came back to take the lead at the half, 26-25.

The host team came out strong to start the second half, scoring seven straight points before a three-pointer by T.J. Holmes ended the run. The Maroons kept a tenacious hold on the lead until the 3:35 mark, when Michael Harris buried a jumper to close within one, 45-44.

Five straight points from Chicago followed before Grace scored a three-point play to get the Engineers within three of the lead. In the end, the Engineers simply ran out of time while the Maroons

nailed six free throws in the final minute and a half to win.

Grace, who along with Holmes received all-Midway Classic Team honors, again led all players with 15 points to go with five rebounds and three assists. Holmes added 12 points, four rebounds and two assists in the losing effort.

Last Tuesday the Engineers traveled to Illinois again to face Blackburn College. Five Engineers reached double figures in points on the way to a 90-75 win.

Shaw was happy with the performance. "I thought we were really solid offensively. We took good care of the basketball and we owned the boards."

Michael Harris gave the Engineers an early 12-7 lead, scoring six points in the first few minutes. Blackburn came back to tie with twelve minutes to play in the half,

18-18, before Rose went on a 10-0, during which five different players scored field goals.

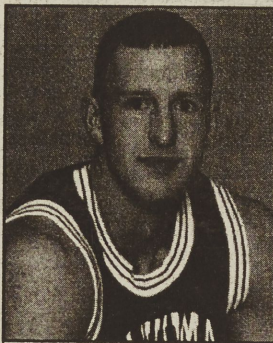
The Beavers kept coming back, and the Engineers kept finding a way to answer them. Chris Unton did his part with eight first-half points; Holmes added seven.

A 14-2 run opened the second half for the Engineers, but Blackburn was by no means out of it. They proceeded on a 22-8 run resulted in a 62-60 lead for Rose until Clint Ferguson buried back-to-back shots to end the rally.

The Beavers kept closing, but were unable, in the end, to do anything about the Engineer offense, which scored nine straight points in the last three minutes to seal the victory and earn a 2-1 record.

Michael Harris continued his amazing play, scoring 22 points for a new career high. He, Jeff Siefert, and Unton all got seven rebounds each in the contest, with Unton contributing 13 points to the winning effort.

Holmes, Grace and Ferguson rounded out the double-digit scorers with 15, 14 and 11 points, respectively. Both Grace and Ferguson added five boards each, while Holmes tallied four steals.



Michael Harris

## High hopes for women's basketball

Donnie McGaughey  
Staff Writer

You win some, you lose some. Hopefully, for the women's basketball team that statement will become a reality tonight at 6 in the Hulbert Arena, when they face Oglethorpe University. After an abysmal season last year, the team can just go but up and the future looks much brighter.

The team has a total of twelve players to choose from, unlike last year's, which had only eight. In the women's conference this could make a significant difference. If the Engineer's can stay with a team at the beginning, their bench should be able to take over in the latter part of the game, and

surge past most seven to ten member teams. Since most teams in the SCAC do not usually have more players than that, our chances are looking even better.

A second bright spot is the seven returning experienced players, though a few of these were not able to play last season.

Sophomore Molly McKeown will return to the game, after playing only twelve games last year because of a stress fracture. Amanda Rice, now a junior, did not play last year, but should be able to make a significant contribution to the team at point guard. Sophomores Christie Shadrach and Ericka Stidham will also be returning this season at point guard. Seniors Becky Smith and

Mandy Smith (unrelated) will prove the team's offensive mettle at the shooting guard position. At forward Mandy Smith will be assisted by freshmen Erin Phelps, Jennifer Phelps, and Melissa Prentice. Christina Forsyth, a sophomore, will have freshman Carissa Hasselbring to switch off with at center.

The season, which began over the break, leaves the women's team with three losses, against Wilmington, Kenyon, and Anderson. Still, the outlook for the year is much better. While it would be easy to say that the team has nowhere to go but up, with the new additions to the team and the fact that everyone has a backup, the sky's the limit.

## Upcoming sporting events

Men's basketball will be at home against Oglethorpe University tonight at 8 p.m., Sunday against Millsaps College at noon, and away at Anderson on Wednesday.

The women's team will also play host to Oglethorpe and Millsaps, playing tonight at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., respectively. The continue at

home next Thursday against MacMurray College at 8 p.m.

The men's and women's swim and dive teams will be at the DePauw Invitational in Greencastle today and tomorrow, with events beginning at 10 a.m.

Wrestling will also be in action this weekend, competing in the Little State Tournament in Indianapolis today and tomorrow.

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# The Rose Thorn Flipside

Volume 69, Issue 10

Hose-Rulman Institute of Technology

WWF Smackdown!, Indiana

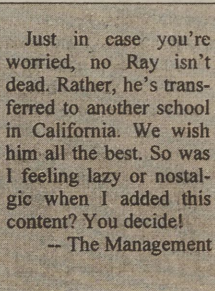
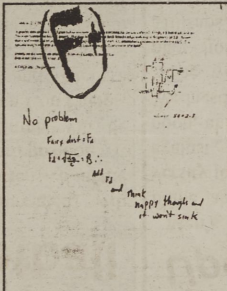
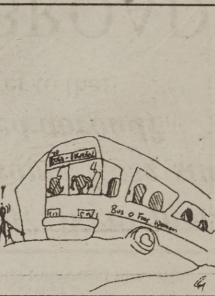
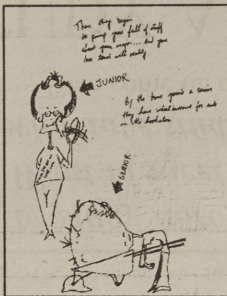
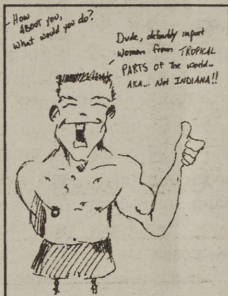
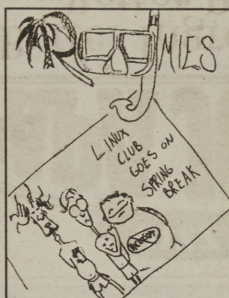
Friday, December 3, 1999

"This week's lack of content brought to you by grieving."

## The Flipside Remembers Ray Seitz

It is my sad duty to inform our readers that Ray "I do Roomies and I'll pop a cap in yo' ass if you don't like it" Seitz has left us and moved on to a better place. It's a sad day for us all, especially me, since I'll have to find something to fill the comic strip's place. This week, however, I've selected some of the best moments from Roomies from the archives of the last year. May he rest in peace.

-- The Management



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